

Volume 17

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Spirit of the Season: Selling Sweets for Service

Microbes Show Support

By Benton Dodd

"The Greatest Casualty is being forgotten." This is the motto of the Wounded Warrior project, and in many ways this is true. Just think about it; you are a soldier who is injured at war, you return home to a warm welcome, but then meet the harsh realities of being a "wounded warrior." You can't get a job; you can't pay your bills; society looks at you like a freak, and you are eventually forgotten. The Wounded Warrior project's main goal is to honor and empower our nation's Wounded Warriors through

providing unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of injured service members. In order to fund the project, they take donations and have many fund raising efforts nationwide.

The most recent event took place at MBA. The project was brought by Miles Curry with the help of Davidson White. Miles is very connected to wounded warriors and other servicemen. His dad fought in the Gulf War, his grandfather is a veteran, and his uncle is actually a wounded warrior suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. After hearing several speeches at assembly about the project, MBA students were inspired to start many fund-raising efforts to benefit the project. Dr. Marro's advisory won the advisory challenge with \$1,150 in donations. In addition to this competition, several advisories had a bakesale to support the project, including Dr. Chenery's and Mrs. Christeson's advisory. Mrs. Christeson's raised over \$1,300 dollars by hosting a bakesale on the Thursday after MW3 came out. Students who came could put \$5 into a raffle for a copy of the game or play the game on

the Junior School XBOX for \$2 in exchange for 2 minutes of playing time. There was also a multitude of food and drinks donated by the advisory. Dr. Chenery's advisory had a solid contribution as well, but was just for the high school. In addition to this, there was a bakesale in the library, which raised about \$330 selling candy and of course Twinkies. In total, MBA donated \$9,642.34; an amazing amount considering it was collected from students in a matter of two weeks. Although that is large amount, you can still help out, by logging on to www.woundedwarriorproject.org, and clicking Donate Now.

The wounded warrior program benefits people like Andrew Wilson, a 2007 graduate of Brentwood Academy. He stepped on a landmine in Afghanistan and is now in Walter Reed hospital. He hopes to return home by Christmas, and his family is planning a parade to honor his sacrifice. The money raised through Wounded Warrior provides equipment and facilities for his return. If you know someone who is affected by post-traumatic

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SERVICE

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stress disorder or other war-related injuries, you owe it to yourself and to them to help this amazing cause. Wounded Warrior wasn't the only service project at MBA this first semester, however.

Mr. Spiegl's advisory also had a bakesale to support St. Baldrick's foundation. St. Baldrick's

Inn, The Guest House, and FOCUS (Faith Organizations in Covenant for Understanding and Service). All three provide services to people who are homeless in Middle Tennessee, such as schooling for uneducated people, congregational support, a rehab clinic, and a bed to sleep in. After having difficulty securing the Xbox 360 in the morning, the bake

sale bounced back and was great. They had a big supply of food which came in staggered amounts: some before the start of the bake sale, and some later after the morning half of it. The result was a rarity, and the Chick-Fil-A's lasted until break period. Overall, they raised about

Ms. Williams advisory had a bakesale on Tuesday, November 22 to support Night of Jade, a charity at a children's hospital named for a girl who died of childhood cancer. The bakesale was also different from the other bakesales. It had some fun and different ideas. Some of these ideas included music playing in the background and a Santa-hugging booth. In addition, they had the bakesale staple, *COD*, and a good supply of food. This advisory probably had the most food of any bakesale this year. They not only had store-bought goods, but they brought actual homemade goods, like cinnamon rolls and puppy chow. So, it was an actual bakesale, not a *COD* sale. Their efforts raised about \$700 for the cause.

2011 was one of the biggest charity event years MBA has had, and we all hope this leads to an even better 2012 year. From *Top of the Hill*, I would like to wish you a happy holiday season.



The JS bake sale with video gaming continues to be a successful venue for service projects.

is a charity that seeks a cure for childhood cancer. Mr. Spiegl supports this cause to honor Teddy Gerber, a nine-year-old who lost his life to a form of aggressive cancer called sarcoma. The bakesale had *MW2* in its last great outing at MBA and a great deal of food. Overall, the bakesale earned \$716.34 in Teddy's honor.

Mrs. Ellery's advisory had a bakesale to support The Room in the Inn. Room in the Inn's Campus for Human Development is a religious non-profit organization, which was formed by the merger of three other organizations: Room in the

\$500 for the worthy cause.



All hail MW3! The release of the latest video game has generated money for a good cause.

SERVICE

MBA Supports 2011 Race for the Cure

By Ben Gauldin

'Tis the season for giving, right? Well, MBA really gave back to the community on a chilly Saturday, October 29, by entering the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. Over 280 students registered for the race and many came to support their peers. MBA wasn't the only participant in the fund raiser. A multitude of people showed up for the big race. All ages attended from babies in strollers to elderly people in wheelchairs. There



were also many varieties of skill levels such as walkers, joggers, runners, and people who would jog and juggle at the same time.

Though the race is fun, the race isn't why we ran. It was all for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. It is a foundation for the awareness and the search for a cure for breast cancer. The woman who was the inspiration for the charity was Susan Goodman Komen, diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 33, she lived for only three more years and died in 1980. Her sister promised her that she would try her best to stop breast cancer. She is Nancy G. Brinker, and she was a woman of her word.

She became the founder of the Susan G. Komen Foundation in 1982. On the foundation's 25th anniversary, its name was changed to Susan G. Komen for the Cure and trademarked the pink ribbon as their symbol. The symbol represents a person running to symbolize the Race for the Cure, currently the world's largest fund raising event.

If you were a part of the Race for the Cure, you might wonder where your money is going, then this is your answer: 20.9% goes to the research branch of the foundation. Public education towards breast cancer and health-screening services get 52.1%. The actual treatment facilities get 5.6%. The fund-raising and administrative totaled up to 21.4%.

Overall, MBA raised an impressive total of over \$34,000 and brought back to the hill the pride of winning the top team for fund raising and participation this year. ROLL RED and PINK!

An Act of Love and Support!

On the first Saturday in November, our own Mr. Spiegel shaved his head in support of the St. Baldrick's foundation that seeks cures for childhood cancers. Cortland Finegan was the guest barber, and he did the honors. Great show of support, Mr. Spiegel!



Cortland Finegan also has skills with the shears.



Mr. Spiegel sports a new look.



The smile that comes from a giving heart.

ON THE HILL

The USN “Halloween” Chess Tournament

By Vincent Zhang

On October 29, 2011, the MBA competitors at the USN tournament were Alvin Zhang ('16), Vincent Zhang, Jackson Maradik, and John Morphett in the Jr. High section of the tournament, while Sal Neglia was the lone wolf of our pack playing in the High School section. The tournament got its name “Halloween” because it is held on the closest Saturday to Halloween and people can dress up in their costumes while playing the tournament. It was a very tough one because 1st or 2nd place would qualify for the Nashville City



Championship. The popularity of the tournament was incredible, with 69 children in the Primary Section (3rd grade and under), 53 people in the Elementary section (4th – 6th grade), 24 people in the Jr. High section (7th – 9th grade), and 14 people in the High School section (10th – 12th grade). The MBA team in the Jr. High section won a total of 10.5 points, finishing second as a team while USN won first finishing with 14 points because of their six person advantage against our four people. Then Sal Neglia finished with a stunning 5 - 0 score by winning his five out of five rounds, allowing him to qualify for the City Championship held every year. I played fairly poorly in this tournament, but my fellow chess companions did well.



*John Morphett, Sal Neglia, Vincent Zhang, Alvin Zhang (16) (Not pictured: Jackson Maradik)
Note: Vincent Zhang is holding the team trophy and not an individual trophy.*

I finished with 2.5 points, Jackson Maradik finished with 2 points, John Morphett finished with 3 points, and my brother Alvin Zhang, finished with 3 points. Overall, our team did well; we finished 2nd while all the other teams were far behind us.



MBA Welcomes Future Football Prospect



Welcome to the newest member of
the Sawyer family!

Robert Herbert Sawyer
Born Tuesday, October 25, 2011
at 5:45am.
7lbs 14 oz.
18.75 inches long

EXAM REVIEW TIPS

Exams: Your Guide to Not Failing

By Carter Lovvorn



The most wonderful time of the year turns into the most horrible time of the year for MBA microbes from December 9th-15th. Why is this random time of the year so horrible? During this period, the ghastly wrath of exams takes place. For most students, this time is very depressing and doleful. However, after reading this article, you, the MBA microbe, will have all the hints and tips to successful studying for exams.

First, one needs to be organized to help cut down on unnecessary looking for certain papers and test. There are many different methods to organizing. Some students make completely new binders specifically for exams. This method can help for those

students who have poorly organized binders before starting to study. Having a binder can help one to separate tests, quizzes, homework, etc. Another way to be organized is to make flashcards. These flashcards make studying a breeze as one can flip through cards very quickly. Everything from simple terms to notes for essays can be written on flashcards. Using these methods can lead to easier and faster studying.

Next, preparation is a big key to doing well on exams. Preparation needs to be spread out over many days. Spreading out one's studying obviously allows students to get more work done to prepare. Also, this process allows students to be more relaxed while still being focused at the same time. The

student does not have to worry about exams the next day and can know that he has multiple days to be prepared. Staying on task is a huge factor in preparing. My advice is to forget about gaming and all other distractions during exam time. If

this simple task is impossible, then at least cut down the time of the gaming. Preparing with these tips can lead to successful exams.

These final tips are small things that can help one's performance on the

exams. Plenty of sleep is a must. Proper rest helps your brain to stay focused and helps one to stay awake (yes, I have seen people fall asleep) during the two grueling hours. Good meals and snacks are helpful as well. **DO NOT SKIP BREAKFAST ON AN EXAM DAY.** The brain needs food, and it will not perform well without it. Also, one needs to be hydrated as well. Following these tips will lead a student to a successful exam score.

Good luck!

EXAM SCHEDULE

Friday:
Latin I or
Grammar/Vocabulary

Monday:
English

Tuesday:
History

Wednesday:
Science

Thursday:
Math



Ryan Kosson shows what can happen when students don't get enough sleep or forget breakfast before exams.

ON THE HILL

Scenes from a Seventh-Grade Mixer



Ben Gauldin and Cameron Wade



Palmer Einstman, Jarrett Knight, and Holland Lund



Will Peters and Asher Curnutte



Turner Johnson



Max Davis

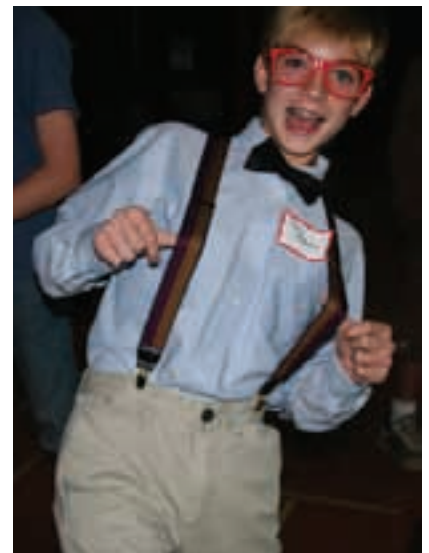


Jack Reineke shows how it is done.



Jack Anderson

*Photos Courtesy of
Joe Moxley*



Tom Peters

SERIALIZATION

Chapter II: Could it Be...?

Dear Clyde,

The police interrogated me this afternoon. I think they believe I need medication and a counselor. They say that I am going through a lot of stress. My temperature is always higher than normal, and people are saying that I talk really fast now. I've started procrastinating more, and I never seem to have any silence in my head at night.

It turned out that Clarice Longwood was bludgeoned with a crowbar. They found it in the ceiling rafters of the new building. The way their special agents framed it, they said that the killer took the crowbar, coaxed Clarice to walk into the building, and then viciously hacked at her head from behind a doorway when she walked into the room. They also found a whole lot of blood in the room. In fact, those agents are smarter than they look; they analyzed that there were two types of blood splatter – those from the actual beating and those slung from the crowbar itself.

More importantly to me, my grades are slipping dramatically, and my personal life is in a state of ruin. Not only did my cumulative average drop from a high "A" to a low "C," but also some of my friends are becoming more and more distant. Everyone is looking at me as if I did something wrong. My body physically and mentally is shutting down. I also noticed when I got home this afternoon that the bottom of my custom shoes are now a black and burgundy soulless color, not the usual off-white ecru.

More and more in my dreams at night I hear crying. I always wake up before I can match a face with the distraught phantom. In my dreams I always toss and turn; I get clammy and sweaty and get caught up in the sheets. I haven't been able to sleep since the night before the murder. More and more I can picture Clarice's mangled body; her hair is strewn across her face, bloodstains are cracking on her face and clothes, and yet, I feel calmer, picturing this atrocity instead of wallowing in self-pity. In fact, you could say I'm very glad she's dead. My parents are saying that I haven't done anything wrong. They think that my feelings are inappropriate but know that they are stereotypical feelings of a teenager. By any means, people, they say, are always more susceptible to fall into depressive but sometimes calming feelings if a traumatic event has occurred. I guess I'll just try to sleep it off to –

What's this? A text message from Syrus? I'll open it; it must be something about homework –

From Syrus:

I know what you did...

Did what, Syrus boy? I have absolutely no idea what you're talking about...

Nefariously,

TAYLOR CREST

FEATURES



Libya- A New Country or Not?

By Alvin Zhang

For Libya 2011 has been a monumental year. As you already know, Libya engaged in a long civil war to oust its former dictator, Moammar Gadhafi, as well as his family. But what now? Will Libya truly change to democracy, or will it just lead to another dictator's taking power? This Thanksgiving, Libya's new transitional council was sworn in with the new leader of Libya being Abdurrahim al-Keib. This new government has agreed to work with the United Nations (UN) and International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate the crimes of its former dictator, now deceased (Gadhafi was killed in Sert), as well as his sons. Libya's new government is now democratic, consisting of a transitional cabinet and a Prime Minister. Libya's transitional national council consists of thirteen members, including former government officials who defected from the

Gadhafi regime during the civil war, as well as political prisoners under the Gadhafi regime. These are the eight points of the outline of goals set by the new government of Libya (as stated on their official website):

1. Draft a national constitution that clearly defines its nature, essence and purpose, and establishes legal, political, civil, legislative, executive and judicial institutions. The constitution will also clarify the rights and obligations of citizens in a transparent manner, thus separating and balancing the three branches of legislative, executive and judicial powers.

2. Form political organizations and civil institutions, including the formation of political parties, popular organizations, unions, societies and other civil and peaceful associations.

3. Maintain a constitutional civil and free state by upholding intellectual and political pluralism and the peaceful transfer of power, opening the way for genuine political participation, without discrimination.

4. Guarantee every Libyan citizen, of statutory age, the right to vote in free and fair parliamentary and presidential elections, as well as the right to run for office.

5. Guarantee and respect the freedom of expression through media, peaceful protests, demonstrations and sit-ins, and other means of communication, in accordance with the constitution

and its laws in a way that protects public security and social peace.

6. Create a state that draws strength from our strong religious beliefs in peace, truth, justice, and equality.

7. (Will focus on) political democracy and the values of social justice, which include...working towards a healthy society, a green environment and a prosperous economy..., the development of genuine economic partnerships between a strong and productive public...; support the use of science and technology for the betterment of society...; create a constitutional civil state, which respects the sanctity of religious doctrine and condemns intolerance, extremism and violence.

8. Build a democratic Libya whose international and regional relationships will be based upon the embodiment of democratic values and institutions...values of international justice, citizenship, the respect of international humanitarian law and human rights declarations... (and) will join the international community in rejecting and denouncing racism, discrimination, and terrorism while strongly supporting peace, democracy, and freedom.

This set of goals by the new Libyan government makes it seem that Libya will become a truly democratic government. If it truly follows these goals, I am certain Libya will become a new, better free country that will be the example for other authoritarian countries to fight for change.

FEATURES

An Overview of the European Debt Crisis

By Alvin Zhang (17)

This year, the debt, unemployment, and inflation rates were all above the euro zone average. In 2009, major credit -raising industries downgraded Greece's debt rating and sent Greece spiraling down, dragging the rest of the European nation with them. In 2010, a lending credit agency downgraded Greece to the lowest possible rating. Then, around August/September, Greece plummeted, and the rest of the European nations

along with Greece got into a debt crisis. Europe's two biggest largest economies, Germany and France, both did austerity measures (a measure taken by the government that reduces public services in order to save money) to bail Greece out. Meanwhile, the Greek government itself was ordering tough austerity measures, so tough in fact, the citizens of Greece bitterly protested. This move, however, only limited impact on the government's will to change. The European debt crisis was getting worse, and Germany and France barely bailed out Greece with their austerity measures. The European Debt Crisis was getting so bad that the European leaders and the rest of the world thought it would spread from Greece to the rest of the European nations and the rest of the world. Even some Greek economists considered leaving the Euro and going back to its own currency, the drachma. The pressure

on Prime Minister Georgios Papandreou to resign came when he agreed to resign after a Prime Minister was chosen for a new but brief government. All seemed well until Italy was reported to have extremely high debt. Italy, being the third largest economy, was too big to bail out unlike Greece. When Italy was reported to have more than 7% of debt, pressure built up on Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi to resign, since Greece had to be bailed out when its debt spiked that high. Eventually, Berlusconi agreed, and in the near future, all of this economic chaos will be gone. However, if Greece's temporary government fails, the new prime minister of Italy fails, or another Lehman Brothers incident occurs, it would pull the whole world into another economic recession.



He Changed Us All: Steve Jobs (1955-2011)

By Andrew Kaplan

The world would have never been quite the same without Steve Jobs. Born on February 24, 1955, Jobs was a brilliant man and was quite an inventor. He is a pioneer of



Steve Jobs

the personal computer revolution. Working for Walt Disney, Apple, and several other companies, he executively produced the original *Toy Story* and has created several different computer softwares.

However, he is most famous for his Apple creations such as the iPod, iPad, iPhone, and iMacs such as MacBook Airs and Pros. These items are used worldwide and continuously are being updated and changed. The most recent hit is the iPhone 4S. This amazing smart phone can surf the web, check emails, and can answer any question you desire. Steve Jobs spearheaded this great enterprise for many great years, but he died suddenly of pancreatic cancer recently. In the end, Steve Jobs was an amazing figure in our society and will be forever remembered as the starter of our modern computing.

FEATURES

With the Holidays Come Our Favorite: Gifts

By Andrew Kaplan

Every holiday season a child thinks about what he would like as gifts. Here are some ideas to get you started thinking.

Top Ten Holiday Gifts

1. At this age, every kid wants a smartphone. If you don't have a smartphone, you are missing out on lots of cool apps, web surfing, email checking, and much more. The best smartphone to get is the iPhone 4S. A Motorola Droid is a good alternative. These smartphones can also serve as iPods, saving money for your parents. In some cases getting a smartphone may seem far off, but try, try, and try again to convince your parents, because it's worth it.

2. A gaming system. Whether it's a PlayStation or Xbox, you will instantly become addicted. You can opt to also buy Xbox Live or Playstation Net, on which you can play against friends from anywhere. For example, if you are just bored or it's a rainy day, you can just settle down and play some sweet Xbox. Believe me, it's hard to get bored.

3. Video Games to go with your gaming system. No gaming system is complete without an array of good games. These games can vary from tactical shooting games such as *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3* and *Battlefield 3*, to sports games such as *Madden NFL 12*, *NCAA 12* and much more. These elaborate games make sure you are never bored. They are a great buy.

4. Kids don't necessarily tend to spend much time in their rooms, normally hanging out in various places around their house instead. By receiving a comfortable lounge-type chair or a bean bag of some sort, chilling in one's room might become more common. This piece of furniture could be used to read, play games, watch TV, and just relax. These chairs are relatively inexpensive and are an item most children do not think of.



5. A trampoline is a great buy. Although many parents are reluctant to get this for their child because of safety, having a net and not doing extreme back flips would minimize injury. Jumping around, playing games, and hanging out with friends are all great things to do on your trampoline.

6. An iPod Touch. This fantastic device allows you to jam to your favorite songs, surf the web, play many apps, and connect with others. iPod Touches are great for anything and anytime. You can use them on planes, in the car, or maybe when relaxing on a beanbag (#4 on the list). They are a great source of activity to keep you from getting bored and are great gifts for this holiday season.

7. Every kid has a team he supports. To help the cheer on his favorite football, basketball, hockey, or baseball team, get him a jersey of his favorite player.

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For example, a Predators fan might enjoy a Shea Weber or Pekka Rinne jersey. These jerseys will make attending games more fun and show your support of your team.

8. Sporting events tickets are a great way to enjoy a holiday gift. Supporting local teams such as Vanderbilt, the Titans, and the Predators can be fun. Season tickets to Vandy basketball, baseball, or football games are fairly cheap. Following your favorite team through the season and attending their home games can be a blast. You should wear your jersey from list item #7.

9. A vacation. Who doesn't want to get out of Nashville once in a while to explore other parts of the country and world? I know that going to busy places such as New York, Chicago, and Atlanta can be fun, while going internationally to somewhere in Europe or the Caribbean could be a relaxing getaway. This is definitely not cheap but holds many memories and fun times.

10. Eyeing some sort of expensive apparel? Maybe you want some sort of fancy jacket or football gloves. The holiday season is a great time to take advantage of the opportunity. A comfy pair of fancy socks or shoes might also be in the picture.

Whatever you have in mind, take these tips into account, because these are the top holiday gifts of the season, in my opinion. No matter what holiday you celebrate, the season to receive is now.

Doctor Love

By Werner Bradshaw

Recently I have been receiving many questions on how one should dress during the winter and the holiday seasons and what a guy should get for that special girl. For example, "Dr. Love, should I buy really new exotic Holiday clothes to impress girls?" or the famous, "Dr. Love, please use your magical powers to help me find a nice present!" I, of course, have the answers to your questions.

Question 1- Of course not. Holiday clothes are good right up until when that holiday happens, so do not waste your money. In fact, the best looking outfit for the holidays is a nice pair of green or red shorts or pants, preferably Polo



or Vineyard Vines; a good-looking shirt (No wrinkles), white or red (wear red only with green shorts); a belt- green with red shorts or pants and red with green shorts or pants, a nice pair of Sperry's or Gucci loafers, and a Santa hat is optional.

Question 2- I do not need to use the magical powers within me to find you a present. In fact, I should not need to find you a present at all. The best presents are the presents that YOU make yourself. And although only Dr. Love can make the best

presents, I am 100% positive that you can make one yourself. If you are having trouble coming up with an idea, you can draw a picture, write a poem, or write a letter. If you still need help on anything I have covered, you can arrange a meeting with me by contacting me through email, or just talk to me in the hall. If you think you are too cool to use Dr. Love's tips or if you would like to mock Dr. Love's magical powers, please keep it to yourself.

ENTERTAINMENT

Twilight Breaking Dawn: Part 1

By Werner Bradshaw (Team Edward)

Rating: 0/10

Twilight Breaking Dawn: Part 1 was one of few movies to bring tears to my eyes on multiple occasions. The first time tears were brought to my eyes was when I realized how unbelievably awful the movie really was. The second time was when I dropped my water and it spilled. The third time was when I walked out of the movie theater ten minutes into the movie and realized how I had wasted nine dollars. After “seeing” the movie at 8:30, I went back again to the 11:30 showing and finally



target audience for *Twilight* is females ages 8-28, I thought it could have entertained me in some way, shape, or form.

Although the movie is supposedly about vampires, all it is about is how a wolf loves a girl who loves a vampire. The girl marries the vampire, and the wolf is jealous, so the wolf and his wolf gang seek to

watched the whole movie. I had never seen a *Twilight* movie before, and it is safe to say that it was the worst movie I had ever seen.

While the

take revenge on the vampire clan. In addition, the girl has what seems to be a sickness because the vampire impregnated her on their honeymoon. The vampires team up with the wolf that is in love with the impregnated girl and eventually fend off the wolves from killing the impregnated girl. It is extremely hard to keep up with the movie because it is horribly made and an all-around terrible movie.

I give the movie a 0/10 for multiple reasons. My first reason is that I wasted eighteen dollars on this movie. Secondly, I wasted my time, which is more valuable than my money. Lastly, I have to spread the word that this movie is the worst movie of all time, which takes my energy. I do not recommend for anyone to see this movie. The movie is extremely lucky to receive a 0/10 because it is probably much worse than its rating.

*****This article was written by a biased author. If this article offends you, feel free to contact him.**

Happy Holidays from the
Top of the Hill Editors and Staff!



ENTERTAINMENT

Elder Scrolls *V: Skyrim* Review

By Benton Dodd

The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim is a 2011 open-world RPG released by Bethesda Softworks. The game is set in the world of Skyrim where a bloody civil war spawning from the assassination of the high king is raging on, and dragons have been seen for the first time in hundreds of years. The story starts as your character is being executed for conspiring with rebels. You then pick from one of ten races and create your character. As your character is about to be beheaded, a dragon comes, destroying the town where your execution is taking place. The player eventually learns that Skyrim's civil war is the last in a sequence of prophetic events foretold by the Elder Scrolls, which also foretell of the return of Alduin, the Nordic god of destruction. Taking the form of a gigantic dragon, Alduin is prophesied to consume the world with his dragon servants. The player character is the last Dragonborn, a dragon hunter anointed by the gods to help fend off the threat Alduin poses to Skyrim and Tamriel.

I am already five hours into the story, and I haven't even started the first story mission. This game is said to have hundreds of hours of playtime for gamers, with about 200 missions or side quests to complete. If you buy the game, I would recommend



that you also buy the guide, which is extremely helpful. Although I am not very far into the game, I can tell that it is very immersive.

If it weren't for exams and *COD*, this would be how I would spend my free time.

The gameplay is a mixed bag. The player can play in either 1st or 3rd person perspective. In my opinion, the 3rd person is the best because the graphics of the game are impressive at a distance but are poor up-close. The 3rd person gameplay provides a more tactical perspective to the player as well, so if you happen to be fighting multiple enemies at once, I would recommend it. However, if you are battling a boss or powerful enemy, 1st person is the best because you can see what weapons you have equipped and block attacks easier. The transition between the two is easy: simply press on the right thumbstick. Also, there are many different skills to advance such as lock picking, archery, and one-handed weapon combat. You earn points for each skill by completing a related action. If you earn enough points, you can level up your skill for different perks like +20% health, +20% archery damage, etc. If you earn enough skill upgrades, you progress the story; however, the actual controls require some getting used to. If you haven't

played an *Elder Scrolls* game before, it might be a little daunting at first with all of the different skill menus, and control mechanics. Don't worry though, because after an hour or two, you get used to the controls. Another thing to mention is that there is only one level of difficulty so at times the game is mind-numbingly easy, but at other times, it will make you want to quit with rage. Also, there is no multiplayer component. I don't feel it is really needed, but if single player isn't your style, I wouldn't recommend buying the game. Also, this game reminds me very much of a *World of Warcraft*-style game for consoles and is similar to the *Dragon Age* series.

The graphics and effects are not like any other game I have played. Although they are ultra-realistic, they also have a cartoony tint to them, reminiscent of *Borderlands*, but not that exaggerated. Water and wilderness animations are excellent, but the graphics take a downgrade in cities or other highly populated areas. I give *Skyrim*'s engine credit; it is a huge world to operate and for the most part runs smoothly. Occasionally, I experienced characters whose mouths were talking to me but not their voices, when the voice acting spikes. However, many thousands of lines of dialogue were created for the game, so if it bugs out every once in a while, it can be forgiven. Overall, *Skyrim* is a very addictive game, which is nearly perfect if not for the occasional graphical/technical problem. I give the game a 9/10.

Family Note- *The game is rated M for Blood, Gore, Violence, and Suggestive themes. If your parents are okay with the rating, the game is a must-buy.*

ENTERTAINMENT



Call Of Duty: Modern Warfare 3 Review

By Alec Whitson
Xbox Live Gamertag:
xxdaHAMsndwchxx

Infinity Ward and Activision have done it again with their third installment in the *Modern Warfare*

series, and the 8th overall installment in the *Call of Duty* series. The newest release is *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3*, also referred to as *MW3*. There was a great deal of hype surrounding the game leading up to its release on November 8, and from what I have seen so far, it is well deserved. *MW3* has three main game modes: Campaign, Special Ops/Survival Mode, and of course, the infamous online multiplayer. A huge number of people were really excited about the Special Ops mode for this game because it featured the new "Survival Mode." In this mode, you and your partner fight off wave after wave of increasingly difficult opponents. It was rumored that this new feature was just a copy of the creator of *Call of Duty: Black Ops* Treyarch's Nazi Zombies, but that is in every way incorrect. In this mode, kills earn you points, which can be used to buy weapons, equipment, and air support. As awesome as that sounds, it is not even the best part! The campaign picks up right where *Modern Warfare*

2 left off. The world is in the midst of World War 3 and needs help from the dangerous duo of "Soap" Mactavish and Captain Price, as well as the rest of the TF141 crew. You also play first hand as many American and British soldiers. Without spoiling any of the plot, I have to say that this is the best campaign yet, with many new characters, deaths of characters, and loads of action.

Lastly, and arguably most importantly, is the online multiplayer. This feature is what most people have been waiting for and dying to play. Although there was a theory that it would be just like *MW2*'s multiplayer; this rumor is incorrect. *MW3* features new guns, maps, kill streaks, and perks. The producers changed up the online portion of this game significantly. This game is very well made, and I believe it was worth the wait. I give it a 9.8/10. If you don't own *MW3*, and you like first person shooters, I urge you to buy it.

*****Family Note: The game is rated M, so consult with a family member before playing.**

Kip's Top Ten: Christmas Movies

By K.P. Frazier

1. *Die Hard 2*
2. *Die Hard*
3. *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*
4. *A Christmas Story*
5. *Elf*
6. *Home Alone*
7. *Santa Clause: The Movie*
8. *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*
9. *Christmas with the Kranks*
10. *Scrooged*



Bruce Willis is full of Christmas cheer !

ENTERTAINMENT

Uncharted 3 Review

By Joe Noser

Uncharted 3: Drake's Deception is a phenomenal game on the Playstation 3 and a great installment to the *Uncharted* series. The game is based around Nathan Drake, a modern day treasure hunter and a direct descendant of Francis Drake, who follows Nate throughout his adventures. This particular adventure is based around the necklace holding Francis Drake's ring that Nate wears around his neck in the previous two *Uncharted* games. This ring fits into an artifact of one of Drake's explorations and holds the secret to what he found when he was sailing to Arabia and the city that he fought so hard to hide forever. Along the way, the player meets characters from other *Uncharted* games and learns about Nate and Victor Sullivan,



his best friend and mentor, along with learning about their respective pasts.

The story is packed with puzzles, gunplay, adventure, and lots of climbing on walls. The graphics for this game are great, as usual, and the music is just as good as past *Uncharted* games. Most importantly, the gunplay is solid, and new melee attacks have made Nate a stronger fighter and more of a beast than ever. Another solid feature to *Uncharted 3* is the multiplayer gameplay which is pretty solid, with enough gunplay, climbing around, and new characters to keep the player engaged long after beating the main campaign.

Of all the villains in the

Uncharted series, the main bad guys in this game tend to be the least intimidating but definitely the most fun to hate because of their snobbish and cruel behavior.

The puzzles aren't that hard,

but there are some times in the game where the player will get a little frustrated with how linear the game is. In order for the game to work, though, it has to be linear because the player is essentially playing the main character, Nathan Drake, in a movie. The only real problem with the game is how dark it can get on occasion, making things hard to see, and how much the game relies on a linear and clear-cut path.

All in all, because of its witty humor, addictive campaign, strong soundtrack, and phenomenal graphics, I give *Uncharted 3* a rating of 9.5 out of 10.

Editors' Note and Correction

In the Camp Laney section of the October 31st issue of *Top of the Hill*, Owen Underwood was mistakenly listed as Andrew Hudson. We apologize for the error.



Owen Underwood

ENTERTAINMENT

J. Edgar Movie Review

By Benton Dodd

J. Edgar is a 2011 drama directed by Clint Eastwood that follows the story of Former FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, played by Leonardo DiCaprio. This character is not to be confused with Herbert Hoover, the 31st president of the United States. *J. Edgar* leans more towards the genre of fiction rather than biography. Hoover uncovers many secrets such as Eleanor Roosevelt cheating on President Roosevelt with one of her female secretaries. Although several theories which are based on rumors that circulated during the movie's time period, most of the movie is about J. Edgar Hoover's trying to rid America of communists. The movie also has a confusing narrative. Much of the film is very suggestive, in that it will show brief instances of something, and the viewer infers



J. Edgar Hoover (L) is portrayed by Leonardo DiCaprio (R)



what is actually happening. Also, J. Edgar's relationship with his mother is very creepy, as he idolizes her, even though she hates him. The plot is much more interesting in the first half of the movie as opposed to the final thirty minutes, which are very boring. The film tries to get closure for the characters and the plot in a short amount of time. However, the film does include some historical intricacies, like the paranoia of Richard Nixon, the rivalry between J. Edgar and Robert Kennedy, and the rumors surrounding J. Edgar's sexuality.

The effects in *J. Edgar* were poor. As J. Edgar and his colleagues progress through their careers, they wear makeup to look the part because the same actors are used throughout. J. Edgar's best friend Clyde Tolson, played by Armie Hammer, whom most people will recognize from *The Social Network*, has perhaps the worst makeup I have ever seen in a movie. He literally looks like a G.I. Joe doll that has been left out in the sun for too long. In addition to this disaster, simple things like the presidential motorcade and the FBI

building were CGI-animated, rather than filmed on a set. The lighting also made everything in buildings look dull, but I think that was intentional.

Overall, *J. Edgar* is an average period-piece with a predictable powerhouse performance from Leonardo DiCaprio but numerous struggles in other areas. One thing to note is that the movie is a lengthy two hours and seventeen minutes long, and with my short attention span, I found the final thirty minutes of the movie to be uninteresting. I give it a 7.5/10. I enjoyed the first part, as it was very interesting and informative, but the length, confusing story, and terrible effects hold it back from a higher score.

Family Note- J. Edgar is rated R, but is a very conservative movie for this rating, No harsh language is spoken until the final couple of minutes by Richard Nixon, and there is no sexual content. I do agree with the rating however because several themes such as J. Edgar's sexuality are discussed.

ENTERTAINMENT

Tower Heist Review: The Ultimate Scam

By Reilly Dodd

Ah yes, 'tis the season to be giving back, which is why this movie is the ultimate paradox. The main storyline follows Josh Kovacts, played by Ben Stiller, the manager at an uptown hotel, known as "The Tower." The main villain, Arthur Shaw, played by Alan Alda, is accused of planning a Ponzi scheme like Bernie Madoff, stealing all the money that the investors have given him. Josh joins up with a bunch of misfit wannabe thieves to take back the money Shaw stole from his smallest account that happens to be the hotel's account of \$20,000,000 and reveal him to be the fraud that he is. With his team, Kovacts embarks on a quest of nobility, adventure, and chess.

First of all, for fair warning, this



movie stresses its PG-13 rating, which includes lots of language and some mild but clearly sexual content. I would not recommend taking a small child or toddler to this movie. Also, this movie wasn't all that funny for a comedy. Every character had one or two funny scenes, but the only consistently funny person was Slide, played by Eddie Murphy in a much needed break from his recent childish roles. The plot also was a little disjointed and had an abrupt but satisfying ending, but still there were a few holes in it that I wished had been explained, and a few loose ends that were never tied up. There were a few unnecessary characters that they threw in who were annoying in their own unique ways.

All in all, this movie wasn't

altogether bad. The producers definitely made this for an older, more mature audience as opposed to a couple of 7th and 8th grade microbes like us. It had a decent plot and some funny scenes, but isn't a movie that I would spend a whopping sixty dollars on for only three people! In total the final price for this movie with refreshments was around eighty dollars! People, this is why this movie is a big paradox. It's a movie about a group of people giving others their hard-earned money back to them from a scam artist, while this movie is ripping you off with a ridiculous price of admission and food for a mediocre movie. This movie gets a 7 out of 10, and you should definitely wait to rent this on Netflix for a much more moderate price. And don't forget to have a very merry Christmas everyone!



Seasons Greetings

SPORTS

MLB Offseason

By Joe Noser



The Major League Baseball season has ended, but the stove has just begun to heat up, as contending teams look for players to fill holes in their lineups and teams not in contention look to dump expensive veterans for young players that will improve their teams for years to come. With a relatively thin market of free agents this winter, teams who cannot afford the hundreds of millions of dollars needed to sign big name free agents will look to the trade market for help. Look for an exciting winter full of big signings and intricate deals that will surely affect the upcoming season. Below is my list of top five free agents this winter.

1. Prince Fielder

Prince Fielder is relatively young for a free agent, so at 28, he is only just beginning to enter his prime as a force in the middle of any team's lineup. Fielder is a phenomenal hitter with great patience at the plate and great raw power. His WAR (Wins above replacement), a statistic that measures the number of wins a player brings to his team, was around 5.2 last year. He is an average defensive first baseman who has shown a little laziness in the field at times. This attribute does not hinder his premium batting skills, which allow him to ask for the 200 million dollars he is reportedly requesting. The Brewers, his former team, do not seem to have much of a chance to sign him because of the major contract obligation they already have with Ryan Braun, and the fact that their payroll can't afford another huge contract.



Some possible suitors could include the Brewers, Rangers, Angels, Yankees, Orioles, Cubs, or Marlins. I predict he signs with the Rangers.

2. Albert Pujols

Pujols is probably a little better than Fielder, but at 32, he is beginning to enter the time in his career when he starts to decline. Still, Pujols put up monster numbers last year and most likely will for many years to come. He is a better first baseman defensively than Fielder is, and his .277 average on balls in play indicates that he got a little unlucky last year and will most likely improve on those numbers this coming year. Pujol's WAR was right around Fielder's, a sign that both players are about equal offensively, and Pujols is probably a bit better defensively. There are some concerns with Pujols, though. His age could end up being a major factor towards the end of his contract, and he has had injuries before. Still, he will be in high demand this winter. Some possible suitors include the Cardinals, Cubs, Rangers, Marlins, Blue Jays, and any other team that could afford him. My prediction is that he either re-signs with the Cardinals or takes his talents to Chicago.

3. Jose Reyes

Reyes is a speedster who was finally able to avoid injuries and put together a monster year in 2011. Reyes is 28, which indicates he is just hitting the prime of his career. There are concerns with Reyes' durability, as well as if his speed can hold up once he reaches his mid-to-late thirties. He will be in demand this winter, as practically every team is looking for a shortstop. He has already received an offer from the Florida Marlins. My prediction is that he doesn't receive any offers better than the one the Marlins gave him, and he signs there.

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SPORTS

continued from page 18

4. Yu Darvish

Darvish is pitcher out of Japan with a major league build, repertoire, and capability. He is reportedly quite durable and has absolutely dominated in Japan, striking out 276 batters in 236 innings last season. Questions remain though, such as if his slider will be able fool major league hitters. Japanese pitchers have not had much success in recent years coming to the majors as well. He will be expensive, and quite a gamble, but the upside is there. With these factors in mind, I believe he will be on the radar for the Yankees, Red Sox, and Angels, with the Yankees signing him in the end.

5. C.J. Wilson

Wilson showed he has number two pitcher reserve and skills, but not ace skill, with his performance last year. He threw a career high in innings, which probably contributed to his poor October performance. His slider is his main out pitch and nets him a lot of strikeouts. Wilson is perfect for any contending team looking for a solid starter. With these talents in mind, the Yankees, Red Sox, Rangers, Angels, and Nationals look to be after him this winter, with the Nationals convincing him that they will contend soon and signing him.



Look for more information and updates about baseball as the year progresses.

He Came, He Saw, He Conquered

By Cole Cross

Bobby Cox, Joe Torre, and Sparky Anderson are all great managers who have never done what Tony La Russa did. La Russa, third on the all-time managers wins list (2728), retired in 2011 after his historic title run with the St. Louis Cardinals. The Cardinals, down nine games in the last month of the playoff race, came back to win the World Series. Yes, he did have Albert Pujols, Matt Holliday, and the hometown hero David Freese, but there had to be something else



going on in the clubhouse and on the practice field. La Russa brought unity and confidence to his team in the last month. When a team is down nine games in the playoff race, that is a great accomplishment.

Tony La Russa started managing in 1979 with the Chicago White Sox and then moved to the Oakland A's in 1986. In 1996 Tony moved from Oakland to the Gate Way to the West. La Russa has won three titles, one with the A's and two with the Cardinals with

five pennants. He helped start the statistical approach to managing, which also helped him win many games. Tony won four Manager of the Year awards (1983, 1988, 1992, 2002) and was third in the voting in 2011. La Russa also joins Sparky Anderson as the second man to win a title in both leagues. Although Tony was just 35 wins off of second behind John McGraw on the all-time wins list, his exit could not have been better. Tony is a sure first ballot entry into the Hall of Fame and will never be forgotten in baseball history.



SPORTS

What's that in the Sky?

By Mark Floyd

The December morning is bitter and cold. Just above the horizon you see a dot. Then you see several dots and can make out a flock! Well, it's Thanksgiving weekend and that means the opening of waterfowl. Hunters all over the state have been dressing their blinds and gearing up for the season, which is sure to be a great one. The colder and nastier the weather is, the better the hunting. While Tennessee does not quite have the waterfowling that states like Arkansas have, there are still tons of birds that make the migration down to the South. State law requires a federal duck stamp and migratory bird permit to be purchased prior to hunting.

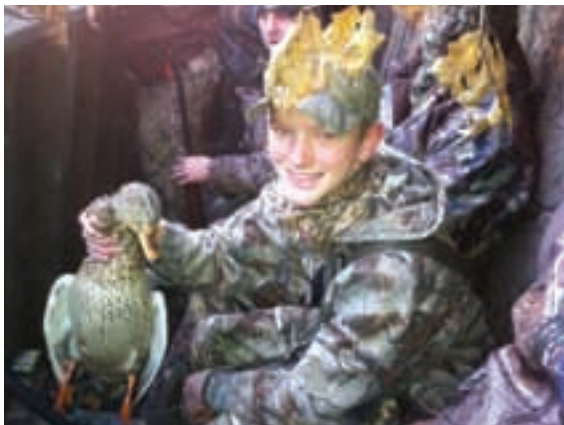
Rifle season for deer has recently opened, and the rutting action is hot. Do not be surprised to see deer moving in the middle of the day looking for a date. With the weather becoming colder and colder, the deer should be moving well. Hunting in cold fronts may not be fun, but you can bet that the deer are moving, and that you will have an opportunity at harvesting one.

Standard Deer Hunting Gear

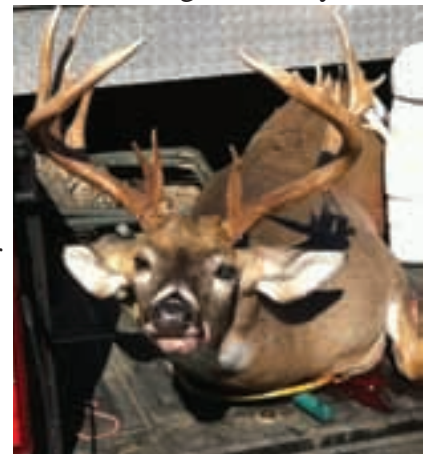
1. Rifle (You really want at least a .243 and up.)
2. Heavy jacket and bibs (It gets cold sitting down in sub freezing weather for 4 hours.)
3. 500 square cm of fluorescent orange (required by law, also include head)

Standard Waterfowling Gear

1. Shotgun (usually 12 gauge or 10 gauge)
2. Heavy jacket and bibs (The best conditions for ducks are the worst.)



Mark Floyd has a successful morning in the duck blind.



An impressive harvest!

3. Camo (Ducks have fantastic eyesight and are very skittish toward movement in the blind.)
4. MOST IMPORTANT: Get a Duck call and learn how to use it (Duck-calling is an art and is difficult to master but completely necessary for a successful day.)
5. Decoys (Ducks are attracted to other ducks for comfort and are sure to be curious enough to stop by in your decoy spread.)

Good luck!

SPORTS



The Breakdown

By George Harwell

This 2011-2012 football season has been crazy. The number 1 team in the country is LSU, and if they win the rest of their games, they will be in the national championship. They do have a pretty tough road ahead of them though; they play number 6 Arkansas at home on

Friday. If they win that game, they will face Georgia in the SEC championship. The really crazy part about this year's college football season is if LSU wins, who will be their opponent in the National Championship? The only other undefeated team in the country is Houston but they are out of the question because they do not have a tough enough schedule to get in. The current number 2 team in the BCS polls is Oklahoma State, but they lost on November 19 to Iowa State. The number 3 team in the polls is Alabama, and they will likely move up to the number 2 spot in the polls and may have the first ever rematch in a National Championship if they are able to win on the road at Auburn in the Iron Bowl. The number 4 team in the polls was Oregon, but they lost as well on Saturday the 20th to USC. Oklahoma, the number 5 team, recorded their second loss of the

season, being upset by Baylor. The only other team with any shot to go to the championship is Arkansas, but it will be a difficult road, they will have to beat LSU on the road and beat Georgia in the SEC Championship.

Another interesting point about this year's college football season is the Heisman Race. The frontrunner for the entire season was Andrew Luck, the quarterback of Stanford, but he dropped out of the race after his bad performance in the loss against Oregon. Others in the race are Brandon Weeden, the quarterback of Oklahoma State; Trent Richardson, the running back for Alabama; Monte Ball, the running back for Wisconsin; and Case Keenum, the quarterback for Houston. No matter what happens, this is sure to be one of the craziest football seasons ever.

The Predators: Could This Be the Year?

By Hamilton Garber

The Nashville Predators are having a pretty good season this far. After going to the 2nd round playoffs for the first time last year, they have much to follow up. The Preds are second in the Central division with 10 wins, 6 losses, and a power ranking of 12th. Just recently, the Predators played their 1000th game, which resulted in a disappointing overtime loss. On the defensive side of the ice,



leaders Shea Weber and Ryan Suter continue to dominate and lead the Predators. Pekka Rinne boasts 1.89 goals scored against him per game, and a .942 save average. Rinne also leads the league in shots against him with 572, saves with 533 and minutes played, with 1,052.35.

In their 1000th game against the Montreal Canadiens, Shea Weber scored a shorthanded goal, and the Preds led 1-0. The Canadiens countered with another goal. The game was tied 1-1, and the Preds went into overtime. Finally, a goal scored by the Canadians ruined the 1000th game. A highlight reel from the first 999 games gave Predator fans some small happiness. Even though the 1000th game was a loss, it will be an important game in the Predator's franchise.

I was in attendance at the past game against the Oilers. Even though

the Predators were ranked above them, the Oilers crushed the Preds. The final score was 6-2. In the first period, the Oilers got off to an early lead, scoring three unanswered first period goals. The Preds couldn't score until the third period. Jordan Tootoo finally scored a goal mid-third period. The crowd roared, but mid celebration, the Oilers scored yet another goal! My family and I were disappointed at such a loss, and it made me think that the Preds may not be as good as they were said to be.

The Predators have a tough couple of games ahead of them. The next four games are on the road against the Wild, the rival Redwings, and another game against the Oilers. The next home game is against the Sabres at 7:00 PM on December 3. If the Preds can work on their fundamentals and have a more aggressive offense, Nashville might have a shot to have a successful season.

SPORTS

Penn State Scandal Shocks the Country

By Jack Litchfield

One of the saddest stories ever to come out of the sports world was revealed November and has been the main subject of discussion in sports for the past several weeks. Penn State defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky was charged with sexually abusing eight young boys that were participating in a football camp associated with Sandusky's charity, The Second Mile. This scandal has spawned separate controversial stories, and this article will provide you with all the information you need to know about the ongoing controversy at Penn State.

Sandusky first established The Second Mile as a group foster home for troubled kids in Pennsylvania in 1977. Incidents of inappropriate conduct from Sandusky were reported to university police throughout the next several decades, and he eventually retired in 1999. However, Sandusky still had access to the university's facilities, including the now infamous Lasch Football Building. Suspicion about the beloved defensive coordinator began to arise because of multiple

sketchy reports from mothers, janitors, and other Penn State officials. On March 1st, 2002, graduate assistant Mike McQueary reported to head coach Joe Paterno that he witnessed Sandusky abusing a boy who looked to be ten years old in the shower. Although Paterno passed the information on to Tim Curley, the athletic director and Gary Schultz, the senior VP of finances, none of these men reported the incident to police.

On November 5, the investigation into Schultz, Curley, and Sandusky was made known to the public, causing immediate shock and disbelief throughout the Penn State community and country. Curley and Schultz resigned the next day and were prosecuted on charges of making false statements to authorities and failing to report the abuse of a child the day after that. Legendary head coach Joe Paterno announced on November 9th that he planned to retire at the end of the season, as many MBA students saw on ESPN during lunch that Wednesday. In a moving press conference, Paterno stated, "This is a tragedy. It is one of the greatest sorrows of my life. With the benefit of hindsight, I wish I had done more." However, Penn State Trustees announced that they had fired Paterno along with the university president, Graham Spanier, just hours after Paterno's press conference. This move prompted an outcry from Penn State



Jerry Sandusky (center)

students and alumni rallying behind their beloved head coach who had led the team for more than 60 years. Mike McQueary, who had been promoted to assistant coach since his report in 2002, was also placed on "administrative leave."

In an emotional Senior Day game the following Saturday, the support of the crowd and sports fans throughout the country was not enough to rally the Nittany Lions, led by interim coach Tom Bradley, to a victory. This loss added insult to injury.

Currently, the sexual abuse case is continuing and authorities believe as many as ten other young boys were victims of Sandusky's perversion. The CEO of The Second Mile, Jack Raykovitz, has resigned as well. Also, November 18th brought the terrible news that fired coach Joe Paterno is suffering from a treatable form of lung cancer. No matter what your opinion on the this situation, I believe we can all simply hope that justice is brought to this horrifying scandal.

SPORTS



Will It Be Vandy's Year?

By Cole Campbell

On November 13, the Cleveland State Vikings shocked the 7th ranked Vanderbilt Commodores at Memorial Gymnasium, winning 71-58 in their season opener. Despite coming off a win against Oregon two nights before, Vanderbilt could not get a handle on the game, and Cleveland State never fell behind. This kind of upset did not feel unfamiliar to Commodore supporters, as it had happened against Siena in 2008, Murray State in 2010, and Richmond in 2011, all in the first rounds of the NCAA Tournament. These unlikely defeats have left Vanderbilt fans wondering if their team can live up to their high expectations this season, and what the season will turn out to be.

Vandy's roster gives fans reason to believe that the team can succeed. John Jenkins, a starting

guard for the Commodores, is the leading scorer in the SEC and has developed into a great defensive player. Jeffery Taylor, the seasoned senior of the team, is a great athlete and defender and will be one of the key leaders this year. The starting center, Festus Ezeli, will be the main big man for Vanderbilt and specializes in blocking shots, rebounding, and scoring under the basket. Brad Tinsley, the starting point guard, is an excellent shooter and led the SEC in assists last season. Steve Tchiengang, the talented power forward on the team, looks to be a dominant force in the paint this season, along with being able to hit jump shots around the perimeter. With all this talent and experience, Vanderbilt seems to be a top team in the nation, but for some reason, they cannot capitalize when it counts. With the start of

conference play coming up, Vandy hopes to make an impact in the SEC. With competition like Kentucky and Florida, it certainly won't be easy. Even if Vanderbilt does win the conference, though, they will still be faced with teams like Cleveland State in the NCAA Tournament. Maybe the problem with Vanderbilt in facing these teams is that the other teams simply want the win more. For example, Cleveland State's coach, Gary Waters, said that he and his team were excited to get the opportunity to play a team like Vanderbilt and get a chance to win. Vandy, however, may have looked at it as more of an easy win on their schedule. The fact that they were caught off guard was a major reason they lost. So even though Vandy has great team, it won't matter unless they can beat their minor opponents first.



Shell-shocked Vandy players during the Cleveland State game.

MICROBE SPORTS

Microbe Wrestlers Win HVAC!

By Mark Floyd

The microbe wrestling team has just finished a fantastic HVAC wrestling season. The season opened with a successful match against FRA. The Big Red rolled over FRA 54-29. The next match was against BGA. The team fought hard and edged out the talented Wildcats with a 45-34 victory. Next, MBA faced Ensworth and won handily 66-15. The following contest was against Harding Academy. The Big Red won a tough match 54-



2011 HVAC Champs!

30. Then, the Big Red wrestled in an extremely competitive tournament, the MBA Duels. The Big Red finished in fourth place. The Big Red then faced an athletic and powerful Brentwood Academy team. The duel came down to the last matchup, and Charles West pulled out a clutch win, giving the Big Red a 44-35 victory. MBA next took on Oakland. The team won

handily and was then focused on winning the HVAC championship.

The Big Red came into the gym at BGA on a cold Saturday morning, determined and ready for battle. The microbes fought hard throughout the day and placed thirteen

wrestlers to crown MBA the HVAC champions with Stephen Richey, Jed Griffin, Ryan Kosson, and John Kelly as champions of their individual weight classes. Led by coaches Shone and McMurray, the Big Red finished a successful HVAC season. The microbe wrestling team is ready for the second half of the season and many more victories to come.

8th Grade Basketball Preview

By Carter Lovvorn



The 8th Grade basketball team is off to a successful start at 1-0. The team had three hard weeks of practice and scrimmages before beginning their season. Coach Jackson and Coach Davidson have been working the team hard to be prepared for a long season. The team had a week of practices before their first scrimmage against Head Magnet School. The team performed well and

beat a solid Head Magnet squad. On Monday, November 21, the team faced off against a scrappy St. Henry squad. The Big Red crushed the Tigers 61-35, dominating them in every aspect of the game. Parker Bryan led the team with 10 pts, and nine of the thirteen other players scored as well. Other key players included Jack King (9 points), Gray Adelman (9 points), and Will Eskew with his shutdown defense.

Now MBA is preparing for the Overbrook Classic, which takes place the week of December 5-9. The 8th grade has won this tournament two years in a row and is looking to make it three. Last year, the 7th grade team

(this year's 8th grade team) exited the tournament after just one game, losing to St. Bernard Academy. This year will be just as tough because many of the teams MBA defeated last year have added very skilled and talented players to their lineups.

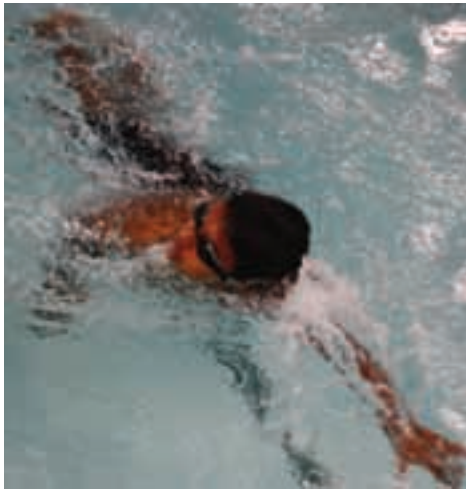
The schedule for the team is online on the athletics page of MBA's website. The Big Red will take on many different rivals this year: Ensworth, Christ Presbyterian Academy, Battle Ground Academy, and Brentwood Academy, all twice. All of these teams whom the Big Red defeated last year have completely new teams and will definitely offer competitive games. The team would appreciate support at all home games against our rivals.

MICROBE SPORTS

Microbe Swimming: Anticipating a Championship

By Hunter Hamilton

The MBA Microbe Swim Team started the season strong. The team practices for an hour after school at the Gordon Jewish Community Center (JCC) every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 4:00 to 4:45. Although the team had only two weeks of practice, it competed in its first meet at the JCC on November 12. The Microbes battled Harding Academy and Ensworth, winning easily. The second meet took place at Tennessee State University on November 11. The Microbes knew this was going to be a very competitive meet, and they rose to the challenge. MBA placed second in the 200 yard medley relay. In the 100 yard freestyle, Jordan Rosdeutscher placed fourth,



Yawin Alwis

and Matthew Robbins finished third in the 200 yard IM. Winston Hewett won the 50 yard freestyle, followed by Jordan Rosdeutscher and Hunter Hamilton in second and sixth. Winston Hewett and Hudson Dobbs placed second and fourth in the 50 yard butterfly, and MBA placed third in the 100 yard freestyle relay. Hudson Dobbs, Jackson Maradik, and Alvin Zhang finished first, fifth, and sixth respectively in the 50 yard backstroke. In the 200 yard freestyle relay, disaster struck when the Harding swimmer in first place stopped after 150 yards. Because he stopped, the other swimmers were confused and a few stopped also. However, Matthew Robbins and Ryan Carpenter still managed to finish third and fifth. In the 50 yard breaststroke, Will Blaufuss captured second, followed by

Drew Powell and Hunter Hamilton in fourth and fifth. In the final event of the meet, MBA placed first in the 200 yard freestyle relay.

In the end, the Microbes came out on top, finishing with 86 points. Brentwood Middle took second with 63 points, followed by Harding and CPA. The Microbe Swim Team has three more meets before the Middle School Championship Meet on January 28. The team is looking forward to another very successful season.



Matthew Robbins and Drew Powell



SOCCER

Microbe Soccer: A

By Daniel Bishop

The 2011-2012 Microbe Soccer A team kicked off their season with an away game against rival school and close neighbor, Ensworth. The teams were even throughout much of the first half until Chase Meluch placed a perfect ball from the corner into the box for Daniel Bishop to finish with a header. Soon, the Big Red was in rhythm with Ellis Moore setting up a penalty kick, which Will Emerson buried into the net. Wes Richardson and Andrew Duffey both had goals to confirm the win over Ensworth 4-1, but the Big Red goalie, Cole Cross, received an injury by getting kicked with a foot in the face by an opposing striker. Cole was soon back on his feet at practice the next day. The next game was at home against USN. Last year, USN beat the Big Red, but the team came out strong this time with a beautiful loft shot by Chase Meluch from outside the box. Daniel Bishop scored a goal, thanks to Will Emerson, and the team was up at half 2-0. Disaster happened in the second half with the Big Red soon giving up an easy goal for USN. When USN tied it up 2-2, MBA fought for one more goal to put away the game, but the Big Red could not get ahead. As the whistle blew to end the game, MBA walked back to the bench disappointed. Following a weeklong break after the disappointing tie, the Big Red came out to play on a rainy day at home against BGA. The team soon took a commanding lead with goals from a header by Wes Richardson and Tony Ding's amazing left foot shot. The team finished the



Brodie Poe and Chase Meluch game with a strong 6-0 win. The Big Red's next opponent was a well-coached and physical BA team. The team came out with only a few minutes to warm up and took a lead with a goal from a beautiful cross from Tony Ding, which Wes Richardson connected with in the box. In the second half, Chase Meluch placed a through ball to Chris Saxon, which he placed amazingly into the opposite corner. BA then scored a goal to make it 2-1. The game would not have been won without Christian Williams diving onto the goal line to stop a ball, and he finished by clearing the ball and saving the Big Red from another tie.

As the Big Red entered the second half of the two-month season, the team faced league rival and opponent in the HVAC finals, CPA, away under the lights. The teams were very evenly matched in players and coaching staff. CPA's giant defender headed a cross into the goal giving CPA the lead, and the Big Red were down for the first time this season. The score stayed the same until Ellis Moore once again set up a penalty kick, which Will Emerson buried beautifully into the net to tie the game up. The Big Red battled on until the last minutes of the game, when Brodie Poe finished a cross from William Porter's huge throw. The Big Red were now up in the final minutes and the defenders, William Porter, Christian Williams, Alden Ferguson, and Will Warren played shutdown defense to confirm the 2-1 win. The

Big Red's next opponent was Harding, and the team came out and took a 3-0 lead in the first half, including two great goals from Ellis Moore and an amazing shot from Tony Ding. After a chilly, windy halftime, the Big Red froze up and allowed two

goals for Harding. Daniel Bishop scored a goal into the back corner after intercepting the ball on a goal kick. Brodie Poe then finished a ball into the net giving the Big Red a 5-2 lead. The Big Red now had room to play powerfully in the midfield with Chase Meluch and Will Emerson setting up through balls to Tony Ding, who made a spectacular cross to Brodie Poe. He scored his second and the game's last goal to finish with a 6-2 win over Harding. The team then traveled to FRA the next day for a game on a mountaintop field and played sluggish through the first half with no goals scored on either side. After halftime, the Big Red came out with a goal from Daniel Bishop from in close, giving the team a 1-0 lead. William Porter soon had a spectacular shot from outside the box into the opposite side of the net. Will Emerson followed this goal by scoring with an amazing shot from a free kick, which was set up by Tony Ding. FRA scored a quick goal from a header at the end, and the game ended with the score MBA 3, FRA 1.



Goalie Cole Cross

SOCCER

B-Team Soccer

By David Gaw

The microbe soccer B-Team had another great season because they went undefeated for about the tenth straight year. The microbes started the season against USN on the new turf field. The B-Team was actually the first MBA soccer team to win on the turf because the A-Team tied before them. After that game, the B-Team went into

a hard stretch of matches that included CPA, BA, and Ensworth. The team won all of them, but they certainly weren't "gimmes." MBA was down at halftime to Ensworth, but MBA came surging back with goals from Grayson Fettroll and George Lazenby. After that, the microbes played USN at the river campus and won 3-0, even though the temperatures were in the twenties. MBA beat Harding after that. Next, the squad had a week of practice to get ready for its last game against FRA. Everybody was excited. They came out of the gate energetically, took a 2-0 lead, and never looked back. At the half, it was a 5-0 game, and the team was in cruise control for the rest of the time, as

they pounded the Panthers 7-0.

The season was great and could not have happened without the excellent leadership of Coaches Lanier and Eppstein. Key players this year were Hudson Dobbs, Dylan O'Donnell, and Adam Young at strikers; Russell McGinn, George Lazenby, Grayson Fettroll, Bronson Ingram, and Davis Voecks at midfielders; and finally, the all-important defense anchored by David Gaw, Jack Benson, George Harwell, and Will Peters. Thanks coaches and players for having another successful season.

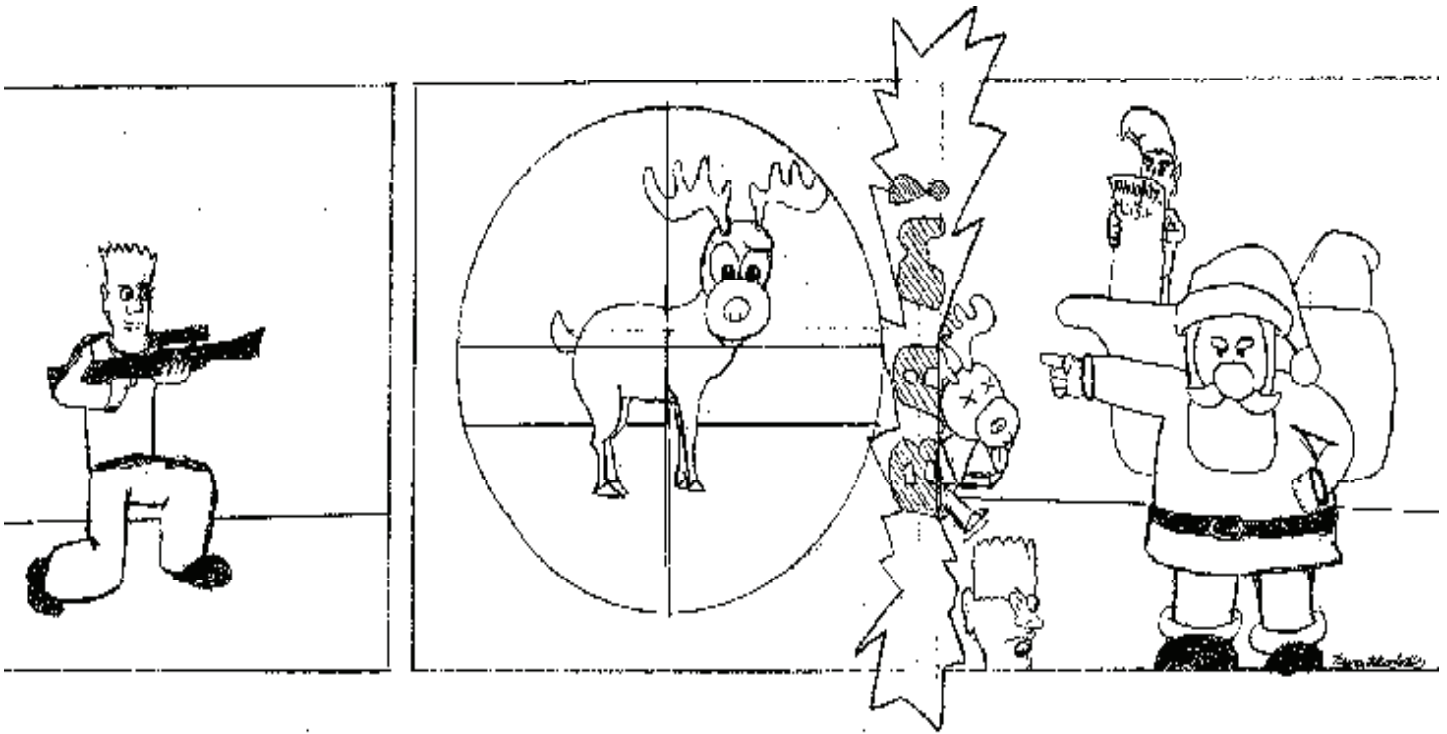
Microbe A Soccer HVAC Champs Again!!!

*Congratulations to
the 2011 Microbe A Soccer Team
who won the HVAC championship on Thursday,
December 2nd for the eighth year in a row.
Great job, guys!*



The 2011 HVAC champions!

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